

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 L-03 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-10

RSR-01 /072 W

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R 240931 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5476

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, RP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: OUTSTANDING US- RP ISSUES DISCUSSED WITH
PRESIDENT MARCOS

REF: (A) STATE 96588; (B) STATE 85115; (C) MANILA 5626

BEGIN SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR HAS DISCUSSED CURRENT US- RP
CIVAIR ISSUES WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS AND PROBLEMS HAVE
BEEN REVIEWED IN DETAIL WITH EXEC SECY MELCHOR.
PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ
TO EXPLORE MATTERS INFORMALLY WITH US OFFICIALS ON HIS
RETURN TO WASHINGTON ABOUT MAY 31. END SUMMARY.

1. EC/ COM COUNSELOR MET WITH EXEC SECY MELCHOR
MAY 22 AND REVIEWED OUTSTANDING CIVAIR ISSUES IN
DETAIL PER REFTELS, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF PART 213
ACTION AS OUTLINED PARA 2 REF A. MELCHOR RECOMMENDED
MATTER BE DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT AND COMMENTED THAT
AMB ROMUALDEZ AS HEAD OF GOP NEGOTIATING PANEL WAS
RESPONSIBLE GOP OFFICIAL HANDLING CIVAIR ISSUES.
IMPLYING THAT HIS OWN ROLE WAS LIMITED, HE NOTED THAT
FURTHERMORE LITTLE COULD BE DONE WITH CAB CHAIRMAN
QUIAZON OR OTHER CAB OFFICIALS HERE (NOTE: FURTHER
INDICATION OF CLOUDED PROSPECTS FOR QUIAZON WAS PRESS
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REPORT MAY 22 THAT FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM HEADED BY SECRETARY JOSE D. ASPIRAS, CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD WOULD BE RECONSTITUTED AND ATTACHED TO THE NEW DEPARTMENT. CAB OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO ALLUDED TO THIS POSSIBILITY IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS. QUESTION OF CAB NICHE IN NEW GOP ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE HAS BEEN IN SUSPENSE SINCE ORIGINAL PLAN TO PLACE IT IN DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS WAS OPPOSED BY QUIAZON AND CAB STAFF.)

2. AMBASSADOR TOOK OCCASION OF FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT MARCOS MAY 23 TO RAISE CIVIL AIR PROBLEMS USING INFORMAL TALKING POINTS PAPER, COPY OF WHICH PRESIDENT READ AND RETAINED. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PAPER:

QUOTE--- YOU WILL REMEMBER, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WHEN LAST WE TALKED ABOUT PENDING CIVIL AIR TALKS WE AGREED THAT IF AN AGREEMENT IN THIS FIELD COULD BE REACHED, IT WOULD SERVE EACH OF OUR AVIATION INTERESTS AND WOULD BE VERY GOOD FOR THE OVERALL CLIMATE. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS STILL TRUE, AND THAT AN AGREEMENT IN THIS FIELD COULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL BOTH IN OPENING UP TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES AND IN SIGNALING TO THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY THE FACT THAT AGREEMENT ON IMPORTANT MATTERS CAN BE REACHED.

---- WE SEEM TO HAVE COME TO AN IMPASSE IN OUR CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS SINCE WE PRESENTED OUR MAJOR PROPOSALS IN FEBRUARY. AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ COMMENTED AT THAT TIME THAT OUR PROPOSALS REFLECTED A VERY LARGE STEP FORWARD, AND WE HOPED THAT TALKS COULD BE RESUMED AT AN EARLY DATE ON THE BASIS OF THOSE PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT YET HAD A RESPONSE FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT. I UNDERSAND THAT REORGANIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE AVIATION INDUSTRY HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF DELAY AND THAT OTHER PRESSING MATTERS HAVE OCCUPIED THE ATTENTION OF THOSE DEALING WITH AVIATION. NEVERTHELESS, BOTH U. S. AND PHILIPPINE INTERESTS ARE SUFFERING AS A RESULT.

---- PAN AMERICAN, NORTHWEST AND FLYING TIGERS HAVE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SERVICE TO THE PHILIPPINES, INCLUDING MILITARY CARGO FLIGHTS AT MANILA INTERNATIONAL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH COULD BOOST TOURISM, HELP EXPAND PHILIPPINE EXPORTS, AND MEET U. S. OFFICIAL TRANSPORT NEEDS. WE UNDERSTAND PHILIPPINE AIRLINES IS CONSIDERING PURCHASE OF WIDE- BODIED AIRCRAFT TO EXPAND CAPACITY TO THE U. S. AND WE ARE MINDFUL OF LONG- STANDING PHILIPPINE INTERESTS IN GUAM RIGHTS. ALL OF THESE PLANS AND INTERESTS POINT UP THE NEED FOR EARLY UNDERSTANDINGS ON

THE CIVIL AIR REGIME. END QUOTE

3. WITH PART 213 ACTION IN MIND, POSSIBILITY OF PUNITIVE OR RETALIATORY MEASURES ALSO MENTIONED TO PRESIDENT BY AMBASSADOR WHO NOTED NO ONE REALLY WANTED TO SEE SUCH STEPS TAKEN.

4. PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT AMB ROMUALDEZ TO SPEAK INFORMALLY WITH RESPONSIBLE US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON ABOUT WHAT CAN BE DONE TO GET NEGOTIATIONS BACK ON THE TRACK. (MELCHOR HAS CONFIRMED INSTRUCTIONS WERE SENT MAY 24. FYI: ROMUALDEZ WE UNDERSTAND HAS LEFT FOR BUENOS AIRES TO REPRESENT PRESIDENT AT INAUGURATION OF ARGENTINE PRESIDENT AND WILL THEN ATTEND CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING AT PARIS MAY 29-30. WE EXPECT HIM RETURN TO WASHINGTON ABOUT MAY 31.)

5. RE PANAM PROPOSAL OUTLINED REF C TO ANNOUNCE REPLACEMENT OF B747 BY B707 AIRCRAFT ON ROUTE THROUGH MANILA, WE INFORMED BY MACKENZIE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE MAY 20 FOR NEW YORK THAT PANAM WAS HOLDING MATTER IN ABEYANCE PENDING CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND SENIOR GOP OFFICIALS. SUGGEST DEPT INFORM LOY OR MACKENZIE THAT APPROACHES TO MELCHOR AND PRESIDENT HAVE BEEN MADE AND, TO EXTENT DEPT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE, BRIEF THEM ON OUTCOME.
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